

The mockery began. It was ridicu- | A plowline of half-inch cotton rope lous and yet it was grim. Adam was produced, and the condemned Ball's father blusself furnished most man was securely bound, standing on evidence; also he acted as his feet and facing outward, to the prosecuting attorney. Of course there big walnut. Desperate as was his was no counsel for the defense, and case, Dale couldn't help being a trifle it wouldn't have helped if Dale had amused at that part of it. It was had a proverbial Philadelphia lawyer on the grounds; all the proof and eloquence and pleading in the world never would have changed, in the slightest degree, the sentence that had been cut and dried for Bill Dale. The mock trial was being held solely because the Balls and Torreys felt that by holding it they were insulting the majesty of the law and making their vengeance sweeter. It became worse than a travesty. . . .

Night fell during the wordy and profone harangue of the Ball leader. and it was ordered that a fire be built at once. At once a fire was built, dry brushwood being used, and in its red and flickering glare the faces of the hillmen looked doubly dark and doubly wicked. Then the judge begged a chew of tobacco and deliberately kept the whole twist, and told the jury to go out and bring back a verdict without losing time,

The twelve mountaineers rose unsteadily and went to the creek, and there one of them uncovered another jug of flery new whisky that was alien to a revenue stamp. They drank heavily and returned to the wainut tree court without mentioning the

The foreman was a Torrey, and a particularly bad one. His swarthy face, with its high Cherokee cheekbones and its thin-lipped mouth, was uitra-cruel, ultra-vicious. He entered the circle of red and flickering firelight slowly, smiling evilly, and the other eleven crowded up close behind him. He cleared his throat, spat between two fingers at the fire, and turned to the judge.

"Gentlemen o' the jury," growled dear price, no doubt, but that-that the ruling Ball, "have ye reached a

"We have, yore honor," very promptly answered the Torrey who was foreman. "And we ha' found the pris'ner guilty o' the wust kind o' coldblooded. premeditated mudder in the fust de-

Old Ball leveled a knotty forefinger toward Bill Dale,

"Fo' the killin' o' my son Adam," he pronounced sentence, "you sh'll hang by the neck ontel dead, from a limb o' this here warnut tree, by gonnies, at sunrise in the mornin'."

Although he had well known what the sentence would be, Dale went suddenly ashen. Then he took a firm grip on himself and began to reason. He could not hope, he decided, that

the Morelands and the Littlefords would find him before the sun rose. They would miss him, of course, and they would suspect foul play and look for him; but finding him in that wilderness-it was impossible. It became plain to him that he would have to save himself if he were saved. He believed his best chance lay in his proving that he was anything but a coward: the worst mountaineer, he knew, admired a brave man-

So he turned slightly toward the self-appointed judge and asked calm-

"Is there anything really game about you?" "Shore, by gonnies!" quickly. "I'm

all game. I'm the feller 'at showed wildents how to fight. What about

"I'll see if you're all game," Dale said, and he smiled when he spoke. "I'll make you this proposition: I'll fight any ten of you, two at a time, th five minutes' rest between fights; if I whip them all I go free, and if I don't whip them all I hang immediately. All parties to be barehanded, no guns and no knives. Are you that game?"

Ordinarily, it would have been a thing well nigh impossible to do, much as Dale knew of the pugilistic art, great as was his strength and endurance. But now most of those about Dale were drunk and therefore weak- help, because he feared to leave Dale ened, and he believed he had a chance

if old Ball accepted. But Judge Ball didn't accept. Doubtless he remembered his son Adam's fight with Dale.

"The' cain't be no fightin' in co'te," he said. "You sh'll hang by the neck ontel dead, at sunrise in the mornin'."

There was a mumble of approva: from the others. Doubtless they, too, remembered that the young man whom they held a captive had once whipped Black Adam Ball, the mountaineer Gollath, with his bare hands. They did not have the one good trait that Dule had hoped they possessed; while they must have admired him for his courage, they were afraid to fight him without weapons. Dale recalled the fact that the Balls were not originally hillfolk, but lowlanders who had taken to the mountains in order to avoid being forced to fight during the Civil war, a people without a principle. The Cherokee Torreys, of course, were

"Kitty, kitty, kitty!" Walt Turner called tauntingly again. "He walked into the trap like a pore Butle kitty!"

There came a few seconds of silence

save for the lusty snoring of the sleep-

ers and the musical tinkle of the little

Goff straightened in surprise. The rifle's muzzle went harder against his back and he knew it for exactly what then downward and the cotton rope was severed in half a dozen places.

"Stiddy thar, now!" whispered By Heck, and he began to back away. "Come along wi' me, ye dadslatted, banjer-bellied skunk. Bill he'll feller." The three of them hurried into the Lewis. deeper shadows. Soon Heck halted Goff and turned to Dale,

"S'arch him fo' a gun, Bill, old boy." Dale lifted from Henderson Goff's right-hard cont-pocket a blued and Mrs. Wm. Caris. stub-nosed magazine pistol.

"Dang my eyes and blast my forvoice, "He's plumb death on them little popguns, ain't he? Say, Goff, ef ever ye shoots me with a thing like that and I find it out, danged of I don't spank ye ontel yore nose bloods; Now, le's go, you'uns. And ef ye jest cheep out a noise, Mister Goff, the buzzards will pick the meat offen yore bones afore temorrer night." "Move, shyster!" frowned Bill

wisht ye hadn't ha' done it." Samuel Heck was very proud of himself. He straightened there in the

"What'n the name o' the devil makes ye wisht sech a thing as that, John?"

It Was So Very Melodramatic.

so very melodramatic. And yet, it

was so grimly real, and his hopes

The Morelands and the Littlefords

would eventually learn the truth and

make the Balls and Torreys pay a

The men were divided into two

watches. The first was to remain

awake and on guard until midnight,

and the other was to go on duty from

midnight until dawn. The second

watch, with which was the faction's

leader, had a nightcap of the vitrielle

whisky, flung itself sprawling on the

ground and straightway went to sleep.

crackling brushwood fire and played

cards for chews of tobacco, cartridges

and pocket knives, sang strange and

outlandish songs and drank more

whisky. One very drunk Torrey gam-

bled away all his tobacco, all his cart-

ridges, his knife, his rifle and his belt,

his cont and his hat, his boots and his

shirt-and offered to bet his trousers

and his ears on the turn of a single

After some two hours of these worse

watch, heavy with drink, stopped play-

guardian for many days, the lanky

By Heck. Why hadn't he thought of

Heck before? He wondered if Heck

By Heck had not followed Bill Dale

to the little basin. But he had fol-

lowed Henderson Goff, and Henderson

Goff had followed Dale to the little

Pine Mountain country only that day

and he knew nothing of the plans of

the Ball-Torrey faction until he wit-

was now crouching in the darkness on

the low line of cliffs to the eastward

laurels, watching him and watching

Dale's guardian had not gone for

utterly unprotected in the hands of

the gang of cutthroats. He believed

that he could rescue Dale himself.

When the first watch became a little

more drowsy, he would steal up be-

hind the tree and cut the cotton rope.

Then he realized that Goff had dis-

appeared entirely. He crept forward

silently, his eyes alert, and a moment

later he saw Goff stealing toward the

walnut tree. He climbed neiselessly

other step forward, watching, listen-

red. He whispered cautiously:

this country, aren't you?"

The shyster coal man leaned around

Bill Dale, crouched By Heck,

from the walnut tree; and not far behind him, well bidden in the black

gone for help.

them commit murder, . . .

The first watch sat around the

wouldn't give him back his life!

seemed so thin. . .

a-follerin' that stranger man, and Goff a-follerin' Bill, and you a-follerin' Goff. We knowed somethin ongodly mean spared to be with her to help her was in the wind. So I follered you, By, a-breakin' off bushes as I went to mark the trail, and Ben he went back and got the rest of 'em and fol-

Then to Dale, "Well, Bill, what're polecat Goff?"

card! It was funny, and it was disgusting, too. It was all the work of Dale turned to the shyster coal man, whisky, which Bill Date had always who was still being closely watched hated because it made men fools, made by Heck. them mouth their secrets and made

"I told you I was pretty apt to thrash you the next time we met, didn't I?" clipped Dale. "Do you want than bacchanallan orgies the first to get out of this country for good, ing cards and singing outlandish songs, forgot all orders and began to | Goff."

nod. Then it was that Dale thought of the man who had been his faithful | edged Goff.

had followed him to the trap, if Heck was near him even then, if Heck had

nessed the mockery of a trial. Goff the better off everybody else will be.

needed it. To the right, Bill-ahead attending her. of us is a clift."

(Continued next week)

Protection Furnished by Nature. An ancient example of "protective mimiery" is seen in the wings of fossil cockroaches of the Coal age, which down over the face of the cliff and are strikingly like the leaflets of cerfollowed Goff like a shadow. When thin ferns that flourished at the same urday. Goff's hands touched the tree, By Heck period. This resemblance undoubtedwas within ten feet of it. Heck made ty aided the insects to conceal themsure his rifle was ready and took an selves among the fallen leaflets.

A newly patented kind of food, put

the tree to the left. In the glow of ap ready for the housewife's instant none of my doing, either. Give me by the contents undergo slight shrinkwhich are sterilized and sealed.

VESTABURG-

resek, after which Goff muttered disappointedly:

"Well, then, hang!"

And Heck knew that Dale had refused to soil the Moreland coal for a song even to save his life. As Goff stepped backward, the muzzle of the tall hillman whispered hoarsely, through teeth tightly clenched:

"Slash 'at rope, or I wisht I may drap dend of I don't shoot yore backbone into four thousand pieces, igod! Slash it!"

"Well, then, hang!"

Mrs. Ellen Shores entertained from Saturday until Sunday evening her son, Clarence Shores, wife and two daughters of Flint, and her son, Araban the City Cammission will be in session in the City Hall in said City of Alma Michigan, on the 11th day of July A. D. 1922 at the city Hall in said City of Alma Michigan, on the 11th day of July A. D. 1922 at the city Hall in said City Calmission will be in session in the City Cammission will be in session in the City Hall in said City of Alma Michigan, on the 11th day of July A. D. 1922 at the hour of 8 o'clock p. m. to review said special assessment roll at which time and place opportunity will be given all persons interested in the City Cammission will be in session in the City Charles providing the City Hall in said City of Alma Michigan, on the 11th Amy of July A. D. 1922 at the City Hall in said City of Alma Michigan, on the City Hall in said City of Alma Michigan, on the Rith City Charles providing the City Hall in said City of Alma Michigan, on the City Hall in said City of Alma Michigan, on the City Hall in said City of Alma Michigan, on the City Hall in said City of Alma Michigan, on the City Hall in said City of Alma Michigan, on the City Charles providing the City Hall in said City of Alma Michigan, on the City Hall in said City of Alma Michigan, on the City Hall in said City of Alma Michigan, on the City Charles providing the City Hall in said City of Alma Michigan, on the City Hall in said City of Alma Michigan, on the City Charles providing for the City Hall in said City of Alma Michigan, on the City Hall in said City of Alma Michigan, on the Cit

south of town.

The Stanton base ball team came here Saturday and played ball with the Vestaburg Athletic team and it was. He moved a hand upward, were defeated by Vestaburg by a score of 5 to 3. Both teams belong to the county base ball league.

Ed. Evans is in feeble health. Delbert Botsford is here from Lansing building an addition to the residence of his father-in-law, Henry

rard?" Heck exclaimed in a muffled evening from their visit at Lansing.

granddaughters, Geraldine and Dorothy VanHorn, autoed to Rock Lake Sunday where they were met by a By Heek led the way to the line of cliffs to the westward. They had cliffs to the westward. They had elimbed the rugged wall and were about to set out through the pitchy dark woodland, when a voice that they knew well hailed them softly from the laurels to their left:

"Hold on, thar!"

"John Moreland, by Jiggers!" muttered Heek.

Moreiand hastened soundlessly to them, "I reckon ye didn't mean no them, "I reckon ye didn't mean no tharm, By," he said in tones that exharm, By," he said in tones that exharm the said court of the estate of Susie E. Church Deceased. Ida I Huff having filed in said court her petition praying that the church Deceased. Ida I Huff having filed in said court her petition praying that the some suitable person, It is ordered, that the 3rd day of July A. D. 1922 at ten o'clock in the forencon at said probate office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition:

It is further ordered, that public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order, once each week for three successive weeks previous to said day of, hearing filed in said court her petition praying that the dim said court her petition praying that the some suitable person.

It is further ordered, that the 3rd day of July A. D. 1922 at ten o'clock in the forencon at said probate office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition:

It is further ordered, that public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order, once each week for three successive weeks previous to said day of this order, once each week for three successive weeks previous to said and circulated in said court her petition praying that the church man for the state of Susie E. and enjoy an outing at the lake. A

Monday visitor at the home of his A true copy.

Milldred E. Taft Register of Probate. aunt, Mrs. Wm. Piffer.

Edward McCoy of Riverdale autoed to Vestaburg Thursday to the home of his mother, Mrs. Amanda Bradley, be demanded in a half angry voice.

"Cause," growled the big hillman, "you went and spiled h—I out o' the main big picnic. We meant to wipe out all o' them thar lowdown Balis and Torreys, By. When they went to hang Bill Dale in the mornin', we'd ha' had a good reason fo' a-killin' em everyman o' the Littlefords, is hid here in these laurels, and has been ever sense that thar fool trial begun. We was jest a waltin'. How did we happen to know it?

"'At's easy, By. Me and Ben Littleford was on our way after more dynamite, when we seed Bill Dale after his mother and his sisters, Mrs. dynamite, when we seed Bill Dale ulated on the event and made happy by having reached the age of eightytwo years and having all her children celebrate her birthday.

SUMNER

Mrs. H. Church entertained her son we a-goin' to do with this here cussed Jason and family from near Elwell

> Mr. and Mrs. John Phillips were Riverdale business callers Monday. Miss Vida Church and Mrs. Abbie Lewis called on Mrs. Lucy Austin near Riverdale.

Mrs. Wm. Standish and grand-

basin. Goff had returned to the Big | theirselves, nor to their famblies, nor | I. F. Tucker was taken violently

attended the John Robinson circus in Alma Saturday.

The funeral of Chas. Black, who the low-burned fire the blade of a use, is prepared by mixing fire died suddenly at his home here, was small knife in his hand gleamed dull chopped meat with milk and a tittle held Tuesday afternoon at the Chrisflour. The paste thus formed is fitted tian church, Rev. Dewey of Ithaca "Youre in a fix, Dale. And it's into molds and exposed to heat where preaching the funeral discourse. The remains were laid to rest in the Sumyour word that I'll get that coal prop- age and acquire a sort of "skin," The ner cemetery. Mr. Black was a citierty for fifteen thousand, and I'll slash molded masses are thus easily dropped | zen highly esteemed by his friends the rope. How about it? Sick of out, to be thereupon put into cans, and neighbors who unite with the family in mourning their loss,

LEGAL NOTICES

All persons interested are requested to be seement on that day and show cause, if any, why the same should not be allowed.

Intel June 5th, 1922.

A true copy.

(Signed) JAMES G. KRESS, MILDRED E. TAFT, Judge of Probate. Register of Probate.

STATE OF MICHIGAN, The Probate Court for the County of Gratiot.
At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the Viliage of Ithaca in said County, on the 14th day of June A. D.

ence of his father-in-law, Henry lewis.

Ryan Schnepp and wife of Riverdale and his nephew, Solomon Manley, and wife of Lansing were Saturday visitors at the home of his niece, Mrs. Wm. Caris.

Mrs. Muriel Tupper, two daughters and son, Cecil, returned Saturday evening from their visit at Lansing.

Miss Tressa Favorite, Mrs. Bernice Parks and Mrs. Eula Hemkey, who are working in Alma, spent the week end here at their homes.

Mrs. Mrs. Wm. Piffer and their Mrs. Euga Hemkey, Who are working in Alma, spent the week end here at their homes.

Mrs. Mrs. Wm. Piffer and their Mrs. Eula Hemkey, Who are working in Alma, spent the Week end here at their homes.

Mrs. Mrs. Wm. Piffer and their Mrs. Europe and their Mrs. Wm. Piffer and their Mrs. Europe and their Mrs. Wm. Piffer and their Mrs. Mrs. Wm. Piffer and their Mrs. Mrs. Wm. Piffer and their Mrs. Mrs. Register of Probate.

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Mrs. Mrs. Muriel Tupper, two daughters and son, Cecil, returned Saturday evening from their visit at Lansing.

It is further erdered, that public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order, for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in the Alma Record a newspaper printed and circulated in said county.

James G. Kress, Judge of Frobate.

A true copy.

Mildred E. Taft, Register of Probate.

A true copy.

Mildred E. Taft, Register of Probate.

56-4wks.

STATE OF MICHIGAN, The Probate Court party of friends and relatives who autoed there to attend a gathering autoed there to attend a gathering and County, on the lat day of June A. D.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Circuit Court for the County of Gratiot. In Chancery, The City of Alma, a municipal corpora-tion, plaintiff, vs A. R. Purcell, Defen-

Mrs. F. E. McClenathan is ill with pneumonia, Dr. Barker of Crystal is attending her.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Struble of Ithaca called on the latter's uncle, I. F. Tucker, Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Tucker of Alma were called here Wednesday by the serious illness of his father.

Mr. H. King and daughter-in-law were Riverdale business callers Saturday.

William White and H. King were Carson City and Butternut callers the latter part of the week.

Several from Sumner and vicinity attended the John Robinson circus in the power of anle provent sale contained in said mortuge has become operative.

THEREFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIV.

The power of sale contained in said mortuge has become operative.

THEREFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIV.

EN, that by virtue of the said power of sale and the sautue in such case made and provided, the said goortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the premises therein described the valle action to the highest bidder, at the north front door of the Court House in the Village of Ithaca, in the County of Gratiot, Michigan, on Saturday, July 22, 1922, at the hour of one o'clock in the afternoon of the southess are described in said mortgage as follows: The south half of the southeast currer of Section Four (4) in Town Twelve (12) North of Range One (1) West, except one-half acre of land in the southeast corner of the above description. Owned by the Free Methodist Church, all in the township of Wheeler, County of Gratiot and State of Michigan.

Dated at Alma, Mich., April 21, 1922.

HENRY SHINER, Mortgages.



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Dated, Itanea, Michigan, May 19, 1922.

William A. Bahlke,

Attorney for Plaintiff.

Circuit Court Commissioner in and for Gratiot County, Michigan.

Circuit Court Commissioner in and for Statiot County, Michigan. 53-7

thrash you the next time we met, didn't I'' clipped Pale. "Do you want to get out of this country for good, or do you want to fight me to a finish? I'm through talking right now, edged Goff."

"I'd guess I'd rather fade," acknowledged Goff.

"Then fade!"

"Goff slunk off through the brush. When they had covered a mile, John Moreland grasped Dale by an arm and said to him:

"I reckon you think we're sert o' blood-thirsty, by us a-waitin' to kill off that pack back thar; don't ye? Well, we afin't bloot-thirsty, Bill. Them Balls and Torreys aln't wo'th nothin' to their famblies'il be, and the better off their famblies'il be, and first and for Riverdale.

Mrs. Clow and daughter, Mrs. Australiant was a large to a fresh coat to paint. D. J. Ayers and Earnest Conner are doing as they're alive.

Wm. Tomlin is treating his buildings to a fresh coat to paint. D. J. Ayers and Earnest Conner are doing as they're alive.

"Wm. Tomlin is treating his buildings to a fresh coat to paint. D. J. Ayers and Earnest Conner are doing as they're alive.

"Wm. Tomlin is treating his buildings to a fresh coat to paint. D. J. Ayers and Earnest Conner are doing as they're alive.

"Wm. Tomlin is treating his buildings to a fresh coat to paint. D. J. Ayers and Earnest Conner are doing and the better off their famblies'il be, and the better off they'll be, and the better off their famblies'il be, and at the better off their famblies'il be, and a the better off their famblies'il be, and the better off their famblies'il be, and a the better off their famblies'il be, and the better off their famblies'il

C. L. Johnson, Attorney for Mortgagee, Address: Alma, Mich.



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